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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Population and Economic Conditions in the Tbilisi Area

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SOURCE [REDACTED]

Population of the Tbilisi Area

1. The majority of Soviet citizens of Turkish origin in the Tbilisi area have been deported to Tomskaya Oblast in Siberia. The Armenians also are gradually being moved to Tomskaya Oblast and a small percentage of the Georgians are being evacuated. The deportation is being accomplished secretly and in small groups, and the rank and file of Soviet citizens do not know the exact destination of the deportees. The deportees are allowed 32 kgs of hand luggage and one hour in which to prepare to move. Their documents are confiscated by the authorities. This information was learned by source from one resident of the area and corroborated by another. The whole of Tomskaya Oblast is reported to be populated by evacuees, who are made to work in coal and other mines and are not permitted to travel. Siberians from Tomskaya Oblast are replacing the evacuees in the Caucasus.
2. Several families whose womenfolk wore gay colored costumes, believed by source to be Kurdish, were observed in Tbilisi.
3. There is no sign of German PWs or of PW camps in the Tbilisi area.
4. Military personnel observed in Tbilisi are mostly members of the tank, artillery, and air services.

Economic Conditions in the Tbilisi Area

5. An unskilled laborer in a sanatorium in the Tbilisi area earns 260 rubles a month. A therapeutic technician employed in the sanatorium has not been paid for five months.
6. Rent for a room in a private home in one of the country towns near Tbilisi is 150 rubles per month.
7. The food supply in the area appears to be adequate, although there is an acute shortage of bread, sugar, flour, and pearl barley. Lines of persons waiting to obtain these items form as early as 0400 hours. The only bread available is of the black type and costs 2.20 rubles.
8. All kinds of personal items can be sold on the black market in the Tbilisi area. Clothing, food, kitchenware, and toilet articles are in great demand. A pair of men's pants costs 275 rubles in a store in

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Tbilisi. Speculators have been buying material, sewing clothes, and selling the clothes at black market prices. Source believes that a gold wedding ring would sell for as high as 300 rubles on the black market. A plain 15-jewel Omega watch brings between 300 and 400 rubles on the black market; a gold 15-jewel Omega watch sells for between 3,000 and 4,000 rubles.

9. Radios are on open sale in the promtovarniye (promyshleniye tovarniye magaziny - industrial goods shops). The following makes of radios were seen on sale in Tbilisi:

"Ural": 357 rubles. Manufactured by the Ufa radio factory, which in World War II produced small military field radio sets, type RBD, used at battalion level.

"Radiol-Rekord": 110 rubles.

"Minsk": 860 rubles.

"Moskvich": 210 rubles.

"Pobeda")
"Zvezda")----Source was unable to learn the prices.
"Kirov")

10. A blackmarket operator in the area claims to have lost 18,000 rubles in the currency reform of December 1947.
11. In February 1950, seven men reportedly were arrested in Tbilisi and sentenced to 23-25 years in prison for counterfeiting rubles. The director of one of the factories in Tbilisi was involved in the affair.

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